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THE BAPTIST

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Speaker: God can turn America around

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Characterized by a high divorce rate and a low regard for commitment, America is losing the concept of a strong, healthy family — but it doesn't have to be a terminal condition, a child psychiatrist and popular Christian author and speaker said.

"God is always in charge and he will see us through; we have that promise," Grace Kettermann told almost 700 church workers attending the National Preschool/Children Convention Oct. 19-22 at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

Teaching Bible-based qualities for healthy relationships is an important key to solving the family breakdown, she said, describing such instruction as "very possible" and "urgently needed."

Referring to research first conducted 30 years ago and replicated in later studies, she shared six qualities common to strong, healthy families:

- ◆ Commitment. "They are committed to one another as individuals and to the family as a whole," Kettermann said. "So

many people are operating under a philosophy of hedonism, groping and grasping for any kind of pleasure. It's so easy to quit, but we have to be able to think more wisely."

- ◆ The ability to cope with crises. "This isn't just the huge things like a cancer diagnosis or broken bones," Kettermann said. "These things often bring families closer together. It's the little things that usually cause friction, like when the school bus is coming and you can't find one of the kid's shoes."

She said parents and children must learn "to stop power struggling and start problem solving." Making wise decisions requires learning to size up the situation, identify



PRAYER TIME — Grace Kettermann (left), a child psychiatrist and popular Christian author and speaker from Kansas City, Mo., pauses for prayer with Jan Marler during the National Preschool/Children Convention at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Kettermann was a featured speaker at the Oct. 19-22 event. Marler is a preschool-children specialist in LifeWay's discipleship and family division. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Youth drinking draws public ire

WASHINGTON (BP) — Americans strongly support tougher policies to restrict the drinking of alcohol by people under 21 years of age, a recently released survey reported.

The national survey found 96% of the more than 7,000 people interviewed are concerned about teenage drinking. The report said a majority of Americans favor limiting underage drinking by stiffer controls on the sale and advertising of alcohol, as well as restrictions on drinking in public places. The survey found:

- 61% of respondents favor a ban on television advertisements of beer and wine;
- 67% endorse a prohibition of hard liquor advertisements on TV;
- 63% of respondents support a ban on billboard advertising of alcoholic beverages;
- 67% oppose the use of cartoons or youth-oriented music materials on packaging;
- 59% favor a ban on the use of sports teams and athletes as symbols in advertising;
- 82% believe stores and bars are too lenient in preventing teenagers from purchasing alcohol;
- More than 75% support a minimum age of 21 for those who serve alcohol;
- 83% favor penalties for adults who provide alcohol to underage drinkers;
- 59% endorse a ban on the home delivery of alcohol;
- 89% endorse restrictions on drinking on city streets, at parks, and on college campuses;
- 77% support restrictions at sports stadiums.

About 75% agree with a "zero tolerance" policy for underage drivers who test positive for any alcohol in their blood.

"Whether Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative, citizens across the country clearly want effective regulation of alcohol promotion and sales," said Alexander Wagenaar, who directed the survey for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is director of the alcohol epidemiology program at the University of Minnesota.

options to solve the problem, examine the consequences and make the best choices.

- ◆ Effective communication. "This demands that we learn to listen," Kettermann said. "It demands an open mind to hear all the sides of an issue, to understand emotions and all the things that go on within us. ... We need to learn to 'listen' with our eyes. Our eyes, faces, body gestures and posture give away so much of what we are feeling. With little children, this is so very crucial."

- ◆ An affirming and appreciative attitude. "We have to learn to build up people instead of tearing them down," she said. "We can teach children a different way of speaking."

- ◆ Activity sharing. "Healthy

families share in all kinds of things they do, not just recreation, but work, too," Kettermann said. This can involve everything from helping children with homework and doing yard work together to playing board games and sharing a family meal.

- ◆ Practicing their faith at home. "How common it is for us to delegate teaching to the schools and the teaching of faith to the Sunday School," Kettermann said. "How often parents are shy about using the name of Jesus." The healthy family "talks naturally about God, about faith, about what God is doing in their lives," she said.

The lessons parents teach children are for a lifetime, Kettermann said. "They impact them all along the route of their life."

Looking back

10 years ago

William Carey College trustees rescind an earlier action to retire president Ralph Noonkester on his 65th birthday. By press time, Noonkester reported having enough cash gifts and pledges in hand to make unnecessary the proposed refinancing of two campus building projects.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptists officially enter the disaster relief ministry on Nov. 13 when the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board dedicates new disaster relief equipment during the annual state convention. Among the guest speakers is Mississippi Governor Cliff Finch.

7 years ago

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appoints four new missionaries, including two Mississippians. James H. Fairchild Jr., and his wife are appointed to serve in the South American country of Brazil. Fairchild has resigned his pastorate in Collins.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

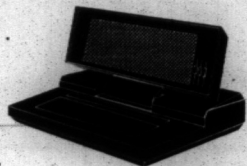
MBC meets in Jackson

Honduras help needed

LifeWay staffers join IMB

Letters to the editor

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What a difference a year makes

Mississippi Baptists, you should be proud of yourselves! In one year, you've turned around at least one part of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) annual meeting attendance problem that has troubled state convention leaders for many years.

In years past, there was a pronounced (and embarrassing) drop in attendance between the Tuesday sessions, which included elections, and the Wednesday sessions, which also contained important business and worship segments but no races for state convention offices.

In years past, it actually looked like someone pulled a fire alarm in the First Church, Jackson, sanctuary after the elections were settled. So many messengers and visitors streamed out of the room that the opening lines of the next sermon were often lost in the stampede.

Not this year, however. Even though messenger registration was down again (the other part of the nagging attendance problem), there was an unmistakable increase in the number of people who stayed put through all the sessions of the 1998 meeting (see photos at right).

Thank the Lord first for working a mighty act among Mississippi Baptists, and then give yourself a pat on the back if you were there for the whole meeting this year.

Indeed, if you were there, you heard some remarkable preaching

that only Mississippi Baptist preachers can deliver. You heard music to rival the best the Southern Baptist Convention has to offer.

If you were there, you had to heed the prayer warriors who pleaded with Mississippi Baptists to humble themselves in the presence of the Creator. You witnessed Christians getting down to business in a Christian way, and then getting back to worship as soon as possible.

If you were like me, you left the Tuesday evening session soaking wet from the fervent power that filled the room for the time we were together. There is no doubt the Holy Spirit moved among the people of God.

If you're too cosmopolitan to believe all that can happen in contemporary Mississippi in the span of a day-and-a-half, you need to attend the 1999 annual meeting.

It won't be MTV, but it's not meant to be. If MTV is mind candy, the MBC annual meeting is an 16-ounce ribeye hot off the grill.

Got the picture? Good. Let's increase the momentum next year and increase attendance even more.

After the 1997 annual meeting, this space carried an editorial entitled, "What a difference a day makes," detailing the falling attendance between the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions.

After the 1998 annual meeting, the only appropriate headline is, "What a difference a year makes."

Thanks, Mississippi Baptists. A lost world was watching and, as always, you came through when it really counted. See you in '99!



1998 Tuesday morning session



1998 Wednesday morning session

My people, listen to my teaching. Pay attention to what I say. I will open my mouth and tell stories. We won't hide them from our children. We will tell them to those who live after us. We will tell them about what the Lord has done that is worthy of praise. We will talk about his power and the wonderful things he has done. Then they would put their trust in God." Psalm 78: 1, 2, 4, & 7.

Psalm 78 gives a clear reason why we should tell Mississippi's children they are precious in Jesus' sight.

The Cooperative Program (CP) assists us in telling the story. Almost \$500,000 is allocated through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) for preschool and children's ministries each year.

Can we reach a generation of children who have not heard the stories of God's power and love?

We can find children wherever we go. Every child who is not enrolled in Sunday School in the geographical area your church reaches is a potential prospect.

The 1996 population of Mississippi's children under the age of 18 was 756,134. Richard Louv describes children in *Childhood's Future* as a generation of firsts.

Today's children are the first daycare generation; the first multicultural generation; the first generation to grow up in the electronic bubble — the environ-

GUEST OPINION:



Cooperative Program: through a child's eyes

By Linda Reeves, children's consultant
MBCB Sunday School Department

Jesus Loves All the Children of the World



Southern Baptists share His love
through their Cooperative Program

ment defined by computers and new forms of television.

Today's children are hurting now more than ever. Included in the 1998 Mississippi State Profile are these facts:

- ◆ Every 19 minutes a child was reported abused or neglected.
- ◆ Every 57 minutes a baby was born to a teenage mother.
- ◆ Every 4 days a child or youth was killed by a gun.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them..." (Matt. 19:14 NIV). Do you have an active children's ministry where it's fun to come to church to learn about Jesus?

In a recent survey, children's workers were asked why they did not reach out to the children in their community. The top five answers were:

- ◆ I don't have time.
- ◆ I'm afraid.
- ◆ I don't have any training.
- ◆ I have other interests.
- ◆ Our church is poorly organized for visitation and we don't have correct information.

Jesus himself gave the example of how the church should respond to Mississippi's children. He was not too busy to stop and take the children in his arms to show them love.

Jesus loves all the children of Mississippi — and the world. Mississippi Baptists share Christ's love for children through CP. God is calling each of us to be on mission with him.

MBC meet emphasizes harmony, prayer

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

The 163rd annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) concluded Oct. 28 after four sessions marked by harmony and emphases on prayer.

Convention messengers totaled 1,304 — the smallest number in years. Registration for the 1997 convention, the previous low mark for registered messengers, was 1,476.

The convention, which took

Kirk pointed out that Mississippi Baptists, comprising 2.67% of all Southern Baptists, gave 11% of the 1997 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

The new Miss. CP budget includes \$9,844,919, or 37% for Southern Baptist causes — the same percentage allocated for a number of years. That amount will send \$4.5 million to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) and \$2 million to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

education, 50%; international missions, 30%; North American missions, 10%; and Mississippi missions, 10%.

The approved constitutional and by-law changes complete a three-year process that will allow joint nomination of trustees by the MBC committee on nominations and the trustee boards of Mississippi College in Clinton, William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc., in Jackson, and the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson.

The constitutional/bylaw changes also:

- ♦ permit between 15 and 24 trustees for each institution's board.

- ♦ call for the Covenant of Cooperation with Mississippi Baptists to be signed each year by the institutions' trustees.

- ♦ gives permission for boards of trustees to change the charters of their institutions — but not their institution's relationship with MBC.

The MBC constitution and by-laws committee, chaired by David Sellers, pastor of Tylertown Church, Tylertown, reported no recommendation for action from a request by the Mississippi Conference of Directors of Missions to allow associational directors of missions (DOMs) to be elected to the MBCB.

Sellers said doing so would be a conflict of interest because Baptist associations in Mississippi receive convention funds, and board members serve on committees which deal with thousands of dollars in such funds.

Resolutions approved by messengers included:

- ♦ opposition to "the plague of gambling."

- ♦ appreciation for the host church and convention leadership.

- ♦ appreciation for the life and ministry of Bill Causey, convention board executive director-treasurer emeritus who retired on Sept. 30.

- ♦ appreciation for entertainer Tom Lester of Laurel for his "commitment to family moral values." Lester is best remembered for his role of "Eb" in the long-running 1970s television series, "Green Acres."

- ♦ appreciation for the response of Mississippi Baptists to the disaster on the state's Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Georges.

A seventh resolution concerning "breaking fellowship with the president of the United States" was not reported out of the convention Resolutions Committee after the committee ruled that the resolution was in violation of the convention's constitution, which prevents actions against autonomous and independent churches as well as matters relative to local

church membership.

Just after the resolutions report was approved, Kay Cassibry, director of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, announced that a Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief child care unit was en route to Victoria, Tex., following extensive flooding in the area.

Led by Donna Swarts of Magee, volunteers will care for children in a local relief center while parents sign up for disaster aid. Their work was estimated to last about a week.

The closing session, marked in recent years by small attendance, had a much larger audience this year, perhaps augmented by the appearance of David



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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PARTNERS IN MISSIONS — Jim Futral (front, left), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), signs documents Oct. 27 that will allow Mississippi Baptists to enter partnerships with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware and the Ukrainian Baptist Union. On hand for the signings were (from left) Victor Kulbich, vice-president of the Ukrainian Baptist Union; Charles Barnes, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware; Gregory Komendant, president of the Ukrainian Baptist Union; and Bill Hardy, MBCB partnership missions coordinator. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

place at First Church, Jackson, on Oct. 27-28, included:

- ♦ re-election of the entire slate of 1998 convention officers, all by acclamation.

- ♦ adoption of a 1999 Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) record budget of \$26.6 million, with only one dissenting vote.

- ♦ unanimous adoption of a final step in constitutional changes concerning trustees of Baptist-affiliated institutions.

- ♦ unanimous approval for six of seven resolutions presented by messengers.

The re-elected officers are president Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg; first vice-president Kenneth Rhodes, director of missions for Pearl River Association in Picayune; second vice-president Paul Blanchard, director of missions for Winston Association in Louisville; recording secretary Gus Merritt, member of First Church, Newton; and associate recording secretary Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch.

The 1999 Miss. CP budget totals \$26,607,890. Budget committee chairman Bobby Kirk, member of Roundaway Church, Doddsville, reported Mississippi Baptists continue to lead in missions emphases.

In addition to funds for the six Southern Baptist seminaries, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) operating budget, the SBC Annuity Board, and the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, another four items in the Southern Baptist causes section of the budget will go under directly funded missions.

The four items include home mission work in Mississippi, which has had separate funding for several years and will be funded in the 1999 Miss. CP budget with \$251,483, or .95%.

The other three items are each funded for the first time at \$133,039, or .5% each:

- ♦ international missions (World A — unreached people groups).

- ♦ international partnership missions.

- ♦ North American partnership missions.

The partnership missions funds will help Mississippi Baptists link up with mission needs over the next three years in the Ukrainian Baptist Union and in the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Should 1999 Miss. CP giving exceed the anticipated \$26.6 million, four entities will receive all additional funds in prearranged percentages: Christian higher

Jeremiah of the syndicated radio program, "Turning Point."

Register named five people to the 1999 MBC committee on committees:

- ♦ chairman Charles Pickering, a U.S. judge and member of First Church, Laurel.

- ♦ Terry Cutrer, pastor of First Church, Baldwin.

- ♦ Jerry Smith, pastor of First Church, Summit.

- ♦ Gary Richardson, pastor of First Church, West Point.

- ♦ Ken Hester, pastor of First Church, Mantee.

The 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention will take place on Oct. 26-27 at First Church, Jackson.

1998-99 MBC Officers



Mississippi Baptist Convention officers, all elected by acclamation Oct. 27 to serve second terms, include (back row, from left) recording secretary Gus Merritt, retired pastor and member of First Church, Newton; associate recording secretary Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch; (front row, from left) president Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg; first vice-president Kenneth Rhodes, director of missions for Pearl River Association, Picayune; and second vice-president Paul Blanchard, director of missions for Winston Association, Louisville. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Former SBC executive dies at age 56

TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — Tim A. Hedquist, 56, former vice president for business and finance with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, died of a brain tumor Oct. 24 in Tampa, Fla., where he had been associate pastor of Idlewild Church since 1996.

Hedquist was on the executive committee staff from 1977 until January 1990 when he resigned to become assistant pastor for staff administration at Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn.

Hedquist is survived by his wife, Rita, two daughters, Jamye McCume of Memphis and Melinda Peck of Frankfurt, Ky.; four grandchildren; and his mother, Lois, of Tampa.

Disaster relief appeal made for Honduras

The destruction in Honduras caused by superstorm Hurricane Mitch has prompted an appeal for food supplies from Jim Baldwin, fieldside coordinator of the Mississippi Baptist Medical/Dental Partnership in the Honduran capitol of Tegucigalpa.

Early estimates indicate as many as 7,000 died in flooding and mudslides brought on by Hurricane Mitch, but disaster relief professionals believe the count will go much higher because many towns and villages have been completely cut off and cannot be reached by rescuers.

"We have received an urgent request from Jim Baldwin for help in feeding the people who have experienced such devastation from Hurricane Mitch, which struck the country.

"Due to the nature of the need and the effects of the disaster situation, we must make immediate response. This means we have a very short time to get the food ready to ship," reported Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department.

Brotherhood and the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) are coordinating the disaster relief effort.

Honduras President Flores Facusse has estimated that more than 70% of the poor Central American nation's food crops have been destroyed, and he has appealed for international humanitarian aid.

"This is a unique opportunity to meet critical needs and present the Gospel. You may include tracts or Bibles in Spanish. God will use this ministry in a special way," said Kay Cassibry, Miss. WMU executive director.

Due to the urgency of the appeal, Harrell and Cassibry decided to use essentially the same packing and shipping system that worked so well in recent food drives for starving North Koreans.

"Our recommendation is that you secure a 'U-Haul' box or equivalent that is 1.5 cubic feet in size," Harrell said.

The food should be packed according to the instructions included in this article and

delivered to the following locations:

♦ Camp Garaywa in Clinton on Nov. 3-18, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

♦ Clover Leaf Mall in Hattiesburg on Nov. 9-18 from 12 noon-5 p.m. (except Sundays).

The boxes will be placed in shipping containers and transported to Gulfport for shipment on banana boats to Honduras.

"If you feel you cannot pack a box but would like to help with a cash donation,

make your check to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and designate it for Honduras Disaster Relief Response.

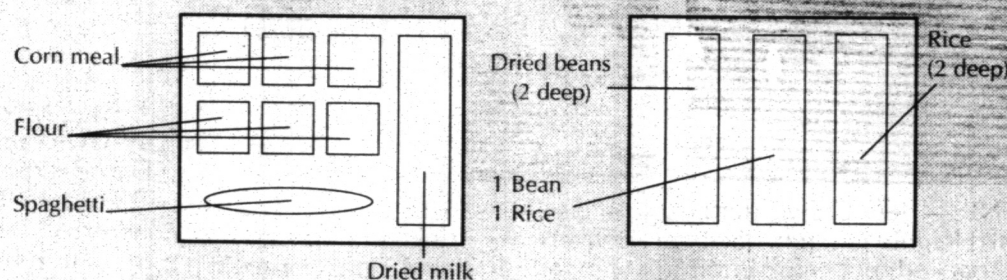
"Mail to MBCB at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. We will use this money to purchase additional food," Harrell said.

For more information, contact either the Brotherhood or WMU department at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

FOOD RELIEF FOR HONDURAS FOOD BOX PACKING SPECIFICATIONS

| ITEM | SIZE | QUANTITY |
|---------------|---------------------|---|
| Dried beans | 2 or 4 lb. bag | 12 lbs. (3-6 bags depending on size of bag) |
| Corn meal | 5 lb. bag | 15 lbs. (3 bags) |
| Flour | 5 lb. bag | 15 lbs. (3 bags) |
| Spaghetti | 1, 3, or 5 lb. pack | 6-10 lbs. (depending on available space) |
| Rice | 5 lb. bag | 15 lbs. (3 bags) |
| Powdered milk | 20 qt. box | 1 box (bulk or qt.-size envelopes) |

Approximate cost: Food - \$40 Box - \$1.70 Total - \$41.70



1. Use small moving box 16 3/8 x 12 5/8 x 12 5/8 (1.5 cubic feet) with weight rating of 65+ lbs.
2. You may decide to include a case of bottled water with your food. There has been a request for drinking water.
3. We recommend that you put the corn meal and flour packages into plastic storage bags to allow for extra protection while shipping. Do not take them out of their original containers before placing in the bags.
4. Pack the boxes securely and do not make them bulge.

The classic opening line in Charles Dickens' novel *A Tale of Two Cities* begins, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." For the people of Honduras — a people with whom we have had both a formal and informal partnership for years — it is the worst of times.

Hurricane Mitch has decimated huge portions of that country, not only in terms of land but also in terms of population. The storm brought winds and torrential rains and, as I write this article, the rains continue. In many parts of Honduras, over four feet of rain has been already dumped on the countryside.

One official, when asked about how many people had been killed by the floods and the huge mud slides, said "We cannot count the number of dead; we can only count the number of survivors."

Estimates now are that thousands have died from the storm and the continuing rains. Many of them buried beneath the mud slides will never be found. Those who have survived are now facing life at its worst.

The reports that have come to us through our Mississippi



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Baptist Partnership Missions Office tell of clusters of people clinging to life, gathered together on roof tops. They have lost everything — homes, clothes, food, friends, family members — and they wonder if they will survive. It is the worst of times.

For Mississippi Baptists it can be the best of times, for we have opportunity to respond with food in the name of Christ. Every Mississippi Baptist can spare something and share in the effort.

Every church can gather boxes of food. Every association can help in getting the food to the gathering centers at Camp Garaywa and at the Clover Leaf Mall in Hattiesburg. From there the

Standard Fruit Company has agreed to ship it immediately to Honduras.

Certainly there are other crucial needs in the country, such as medicine and clothing, and other disaster response teams are rallying to provide for those needs. Mississippi Baptists can do a wonderful thing in quickly gathering food and getting it to Honduras in the name of the One who is the Bread of Life.

There are times when it becomes obvious that time is the most valuable commodity to be found anywhere. You see it when a football team is in the last two minutes and they are trying to drive down the field for a last-second score, and time runs out.

That is a game. This is not.

Time becomes incredibly valuable as a friend or family member battles an incurable disease, and every moment of life becomes a small treasure chest filled with smiles, last words, and loving expressions.

For the people of Honduras time is crucial. For the Baptists of Mississippi the opportunity to respond is right now!

I think about those wonderful women who, after the death and burial of Jesus, made their way to the cemetery with their special gifts of precious spices to place on the body.

The tribute that they were going to give to Jesus was not needed when they arrived, for he was no longer in the tomb. It was a thoughtful and beautiful gesture, but it was actually too late.

What needs to be done must be done quickly. You can help. Your church can help. Youth groups. Mission Friends. Woman's Missionary Union groups, men's groups — everyone can do something today.

If you have been wondering what you can do for Jesus, now you know. Let's do it! Let's respond in the best of ways to the worst of times.

Mississippi Baptists convene in Jackson



AMEN! — Jeff Crews (left), soloist in the sanctuary choir of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, delivers a stirring rendition of "Amen" backed by the full choir just before Colonial Heights pastor Richard Powell (right) delivers the convention sermon on Oct. 27. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



CELEBRATING MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS — Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board since Oct. 1, delivers his first convention board emphasis sermon during the Oct. 27 evening session. On hand to join Futral in celebrating the emphasis were the sanctuary choir of Broadmoor Church, Jackson — Futral's former pastorate — and the Mississippi Singing Churchmen. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

1998-99 MBCB Executive Committee

Jim Butler, pastor
Trinity Church, Southaven

Gary Richardson, pastor
First Church, West Point

Terry Cutrer, pastor
First Church, Baldwyn

Dan Robertson, pastor
First Church, Natchez

Sue Dockery, member
Broadmoor Church, Jackson

David Sellers, pastor
First Church, Tylertown

Curtis Guess, pastor
Weir Church, Weir

Bob Simmons, member
Poplar Springs Church,
Meridian

Frank Harmon, pastor
First Church, Newton

Johnny Walker, pastor
First Church, Winona

Ricky Kennedy, pastor
East McComb Church,
McComb

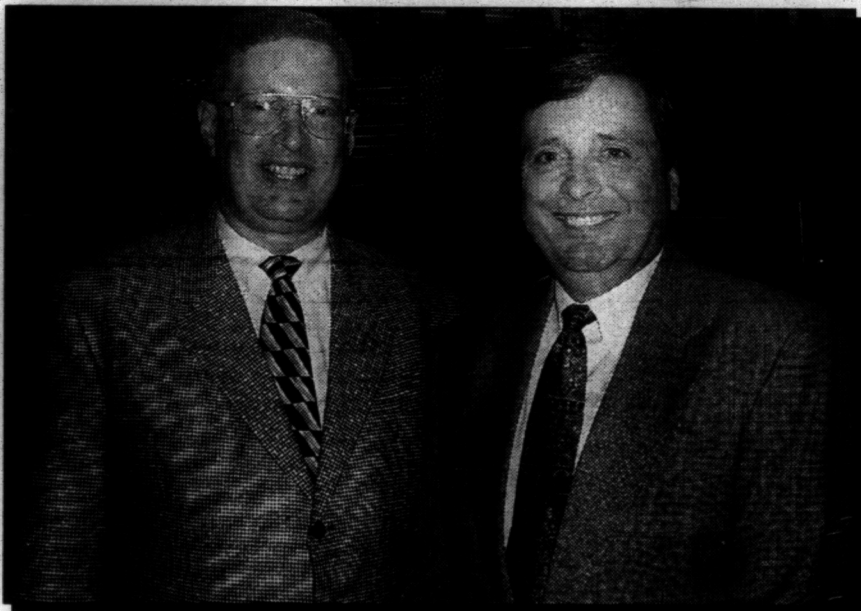
Diane White, member
Midway Church, Meridian

Jerry Lundy, pastor
Harmony Church, Louisville

David Williams, pastor
New Hope Church,
Monticello

Jerry Mixon, pastor
Rocky Creek Church,
Lucedale

Kiely Young, pastor
First Church, Gulfport



PASTORS' CONFERENCE — 1998-99 officers of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference are (above, from left) president Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven; and president-elect Richard Johnson, pastor of Tate Church, Corinth. Gene Henderson (below, right), pastor of First Church, Brandon, talks with Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., after Vines addressed the pastors' conference on Oct. 26. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



MBCB OFFICERS — Elected Oct. 28 by newly-seated members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) to serve as board officers for the coming year were (from left) secretary Bob Simmons, member of Poplar Springs Church, Meridian; president Jerry Mixon, pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale; and vice-president Dan Robertson, pastor of First Church, Natchez. The trio will serve as members of the MBCB executive committee by virtue of their offices. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

THE STORY OF WILLIAM CAREY



Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God. — William Carey

PREMIER SHOWING

**Sunday, Nov. 8
7:40 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Jackson**

**Fellowship Hall East
Free Admission**

**For information call
(601) 949-1904**

**MBC coverage
to continue
next week**

Due to the late-breaking news on urgent disaster relief for the people of Honduras devastated by Hurricane Mitch (see page four), some articles and photographs from the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Convention have been postponed until the issue of Nov. 12.

LifeWay staffers to serve as IMB consultants

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Commissioning four employees of LifeWay Christian Resources to serve in four regions of the world was a "fulfillment of a personal dream," the agency's president, James T. Draper Jr., said.

The employees were commissioned as international consultants Oct. 23 during a special chapel service at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Draper said when trustees of

the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay) contacted him in 1991 about serving as president, they asked him his dreams for the agency. He listed one.

"I told the trustees one day I dreamed of having Sunday School Board employees overseas, helping churches. It seemed like an impossible dream," he said.

The four employees will become international church development consultants of LifeWay, serving under the auspices of regional leaders of the

Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB, formerly the Foreign Mission Board) in Richmond, Va.:

- Neal Cordle and his wife, Joan, will live in Germany and serve in central and eastern Europe.

- Steve Cretin and his wife, Ann, will live in Singapore and serve southeast Asia and Oceania.

- Ernie McAninch and his wife, Lee Ann, will live in Ecuador and serve western South America.

- Michael Woolridge and his wife, Evelyn, will live in Kenya and serve eastern Africa.



TEARFUL FAREWELL — Evelyn Woolridge (right) dabs a tear from the face of Ann Edwards as Edwards walks through the greeting line for LifeWay employees commissioned as international consultants. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

STAFF CHANGES

DeSoto Church, Shubuta, has called **Brandy Gonzales** as minister of students. Gonzales attends Jones County Junior College, where she is active in the BSU. She has served as a summer missionary for two years, working with youth.

Sylva Rena Church, Water Valley, has called **David Sapp** as pastor effective Aug. 1. His previous place of service was Cascilla Church, Cascilla. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist

University, Bolivar, Mo., and Mid-America Seminary.

Center Church, Blue Springs, Union County, has called **Randy Sharp** as pastor effective Nov. 8. Sharp received his education at Mid-America Seminary. He previously served at Corinth Church, Tillatoba.

Whitesand Church, Prentiss, called **Stan Cheatham** as pastor effective Oct. 18. A native of Jasper, Ala., Cheatham received his education at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He previously served at Mt. Horeb Church, Meridian.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Robert Biggs (left), a senior Christian Studies major at Mississippi College (MC) and pastor of Tinsley Church in Yazoo County, was recently awarded the **Thurman Bryant Memorial Scholarship** by Les Hughes, chair of Christian Studies and Philosophy at MC. The award is given yearly by the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to a student at one of the three Baptist colleges in Mississippi.



Biggs and Hughes

Mississippi College Department of Music will present **Miranda Scott**, soprano, and **Barry Smith**, tenor, in a joint voice recital on Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Scott, a senior majoring in music education, is the daughter of Merl Scott Jr. of Meadville and Deborah Nations of Wesson. Smith, a senior majoring in church music, is the son of Lamar and Jane Smith of Brandon.

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist students preparing to take the **American College Testing Assessment (ACT)** to be held on Dec. 12. For additional information call (601) 925-3264.

Thomas Fine Arts Building. Winners will be awarded prizes and certificates and will be featured in the **Winners Recital** at 5 p.m. on Dec. 5. For more information call (601) 268-0627.

William Carey College (WCC) faculty member **William**

Hetrick, dean, School of Education and Psychology, was elected as president of the **Private Colleges of Education in Mississippi (PCEM)** at a recent meeting in Jackson. A native of Hattiesburg, Hetrick serves as director of the graduate teacher education program at WCC.

Homecomings

Wanilla, Monticello: Nov. 8; 90th anniversary; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner will be served in fellowship hall with a short meeting to follow at 1:30 p.m.; **Louis C. Scholle Jr.**, former pastor, speaker; **George Lewis**, pastor.

Horseshoe, Tchula: Nov. 8; services, 10:45 a.m.; lunch following morning worship; **Sean Tudor**, guest speaker.

Macedonia (Lauderdale): Nov. 15; 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; **Mike Rasberry**, Golden Meadow, La., guest speaker; **Jason C. Gross**, pastor.

William Carey College is accepting applications from students, 1st through 8th grade, to compete in the 1999 talent show to be held Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in the **Thomas Fine Arts Building**. Registration should be complete no later than Nov. 8. For more information call (601) 582-6416 or 582-6399.

William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) placed first overall in their first tournament of the 1998-99 season held recently at **Northeast Louisiana State University**. **Tom Huebner** is director of forensics.

William Carey College Department of Music will sponsor the **Aguado Guitar Club Classical Guitar Competition** on Dec. 5 in the

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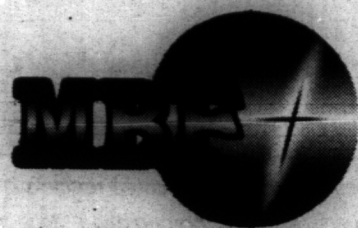
Shaun Walvoord, Music Associate
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The Mississippi Baptist Foundation



The Mississippi Baptist Foundation, serving Christ and Mississippi Baptists since 1943 by providing many avenues for Christians to give to the Lord's work in Mississippi and around the world.



The Mississippi Baptist Foundation serves as the trust agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, offering a means whereby Mississippi Baptists can provide perpetual support for Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist causes until our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ returns.

As the trust agency of the Convention, the Baptist Foundation promotes Christian estate stewardship; receives, invests, and manages endowment gifts; and distributes earnings, as specified by donors, to many Baptist ministries. The Baptist Foundation serves as a money manager for Baptist Churches, institutions, and agencies. As a denominational agency, the Foundation is directed by a Board of Trustees elected by the Convention, reports to the Convention, and is funded by a Cooperative Program allocation. The Baptist Foundation strives to maximize the resources that God gives to provide for His work. Please call on us, if we can be of any service.

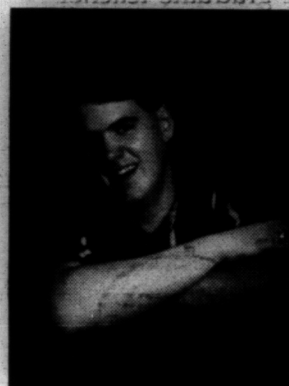
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"...Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ...Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

—1 Chronicles 29:11-14



Bradley Paul Boatner

Brad Boatner Trust Fund Awarded

A volunteer medical mission trip to Honduras ended tragically January 18, 1994, as the volunteer missionaries were en route to their accommodations in Tela after a day's work in the countryside. The flat-bed truck flipped, sending the truck and its passengers down an embankment. The accident claimed the life of Bradley Paul Boatner, 17, of Brandon, and several others were seriously injured. Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice dispatched a state Air National Guard C-141 "Starlifter" aircraft to fly the group home.

Brad's brief time on earth touched the lives of many. The Lord's work will be strengthened and the Christian influence of Brad Boatner will be perpetuated, because a scholarship fund was established with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in Brad's memory. This fund will provide scholarships to individuals attending any of the Southern Baptist Convention supported seminaries or Mississippi Baptist Convention supported colleges.

James Anthony Presley, D.M.D., dentist and member of First Church, Florence, was seriously injured on this mission trip, and shared the following information with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation:

"I want to be like Mike. 'Gotta be like Mike.' My guess is we've all heard this jingle and if you aspire to be a great basketball player, you can't go wrong by wanting to be like Michael Jordan. However, if you want to be a great Christian example, you can't go wrong by wanting to be like Brad."

Brad Boatner was a seventeen year old senior at Brandon High School in the winter of 1994. We were finishing our second day of work as part of a Medical-Dental-Evangelistic team of volunteer missionaries in Honduras when the cattle truck we were riding in flipped off the road. Many were injured, but Brad was the only fatality. For most Christians, the story would end there, being taken to Glory, being with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, but for Brad, his life continues to touch many.

At Brad's funeral, dozens of people received Jesus as their personal Savior. I dare say that all of us on the trip think of Brad and his family daily. For me, the accident has been an easy way to share my testimony with people. I met Brad only three days before his death. I was the last person Brad talked to as we were sitting knee to knee talking on our way down the

mountain. However, I found out much more about the "person"-Brad-after the accident.

Brad stated several of his goals in life to many of his friends before leaving on his second mission trip to Honduras, from which he would not return. He stated he, "wanted to win his family to the Lord; he wanted to be remembered when he died; and he wanted everyone to know what he stood for." What he had longed to do in serving others for his "Awesome" God, he accomplished in death.

Brad's legacy has inspired so many teens to reach beyond themselves and give more than they ever dreamed of. His dream was to be a minister one day, possibly a missionary. The "Brad Boatner Ministerial Scholarship Fund" was established with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation to assist those who have surrendered to the ministry. Buddy Knott, Youth Pastor at First Baptist Church, Florence, Mississippi is the first recipient of the Scholarship Fund. Ironically, Buddy and Brad were good friends at church, both wanting to serve the Lord.

If you want an example of someone who lived and died for Christ and who continues to make a difference in people's lives, then you can't go wrong by wanting to 'be like Brad.' "

The Brad Boatner Memorial Scholarship Fund may be added to in any amount at any time by sending your check to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

A scholarship fund can be established in honor of an individual or in memory of a loved one. Whether you add to an existing scholarship fund or establish a new fund, your Mississippi Baptist Foundation will be excited to help you accomplish your goal! What better blessing than to invest in the lives of others and to realize that your money will live on forever until the Lord returns.

(L-R): Gary Boatner, father; Paula Boatner, mother; Buddy Knott, scholarship recipient; and Jane Newell, Associate Director, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

For more information about how you can establish a Trust Fund, please contact the Mississippi Baptist Foundation by calling (601) 292-3210 or our toll free number, 1 (800) 748-1651.

James Thomas began his service as a Trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in 1986, and was serving as an active Trustee when his

untimely death took him home July 5, 1996. Shortly after his death, his wife, Luvie, indicated her desire to continue to help with the work of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. As a trustee, James believed strongly in the work and ministry of the Baptist Foundation. One of the first things that came to mind that would help provide continued witness for Christ, while perpetuating the Christian influence of James Thomas for whom the fund is named, was the awarding of scholarships for ministerial students preparing for Christian service.

The James M. Thomas and Luvie C. Thomas Foundation was formed in July 1997 to continue the charitable works of James Thomas. The first major commitment made by the Thomas Foundation is the funding of three full annual scholarships for Mississippi seminary students through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Two of the scholarships are for study at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and one is granted for use at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX. First recipients of the Thomas Foundation scholarships are Melanie Lawler, Vince Martin, and Ryan Culpepper.

Melanie Lawler, of Carthage, Mississippi, is a Christian Education student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She has served with the North American Mission Board as a US2 missionary in Las Vegas, Nevada, and as the multi-housing coordinator for the Southern Nevada Baptist Association. In an effort to minister to individuals in the Las Vegas area, Melanie trained volunteers to do Kids Clubs and Bible studies in apartments and mobile home parks. Melanie shared, "In 1996 when I arrived in Las Vegas, there were no multi-housing ministries, and through God's blessings, in August 1998 when I left, there were eleven ministries reaching people in multi-housing communities."

Vince Martin, of Canton, Mississippi, is a Master of Divinity student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and is serving as Youth minister at Lacombe, Louisiana. Previously, Vince had served as a summer youth intern at his home church, First Baptist, Canton, and as a youth minister at First Baptist, Durant.

Ryan Culpepper, of Meridian, Mississippi, is a ministerial student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He gave up a football scholarship and plans to play in the NFL by accepting the call into the ministry at a Promise Keepers meeting in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Articles commemorating Mr. Thomas' life appeared in *The Carthaginian*, Carthage, Mississippi, "Opinions Editorial", and the *Piggly Wiggly Newsletter*. The following material contains facts and observations about the life and legacy of James Thomas that expand on the editorials and obituaries written at the time of his death:

"In the 1930's when James M. Thomas was growing up in Noxapater, he sacked groceries and stocked shelves after school and on Saturdays. The hours were long; the pay was small; and it was his introduction into the grocery business.

As a teenager, he probably dreamed of some day owning his own store; but he could hardly have envisioned the business success his hard work and determination would ultimately achieve. His was a success story that embodies the American dream.

After a four-year stint with the U. S. Army during World War II, James came to Carthage in 1948 as a partner with Paul Lee in a general merchandise store. He then opened the town's first cash grocery store on East Court-Square, after obtaining a franchise from Piggly Wiggly. Skeptics predicted the store would fold in six months. Not only did the store survive, it grew.

A year later he expanded into a larger building and brought a young man from Louisville, Julian Gordon, in to manage the produce department. A few years later, the two formed a partnership to build the town's first supermarket, a Piggly Wiggly "Super Store," which continues to operate in a shopping center they built between Van Buren and Pearl Streets. They later added a Piggly Wiggly store in Canton and a second store in Carthage to their grocery chain.

During these years, Mr. Thomas pursued individual business interests with furniture and appliance stores. At the same time, he acquired wide real estate holdings and other investments. While these business successes are impressive, they do not fully reveal James Thomas, "the man", who suffered arthritis pain a number of years."

The following essay was written in the fall, 1996, when Ashley Crawford was fifteen years of age as an assignment to write about someone "who has had an influence in your life."

Forever a Role Model

My Granddaddy, James Thomas, was and always will be a role model figure in my life. Since his recent and sudden death in July, I have reflected upon his ideal qualities. My Granddaddy was a success story. As a merchant and investor, he owned several Piggly Wiggly grocery stores while maintaining wide real estate holdings in his hometown, Carthage, Mississippi. More importantly and most likely how he would want to be remembered, my granddaddy was a fine Christian, a generous, compassionate man, and a model grandfather.

James Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Through his everyday ministry, Granddaddy was a Christian example for others. He was a deacon of First Baptist Church of Carthage, and for

many years conducted a jail ministry on Sunday mornings. A fellow jail minister once commented that Granddaddy could reach out and relate to the prisoners and make them talk when others could not. Another organization dear to his heart was the Leake County Gideon Association. As a Gideon, Granddaddy placed hundreds of Bibles in schools, hospitals, and hotels through the years. At his funeral, someone even told us that he saw a Bible with Granddaddy's name in it in Chicago, Illinois.

In addition to the Gideon ministry, my Granddaddy served for seven years as a trustee on the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. In a resolution passed by the Board commemorating his service, the Foundation described his Christian service well by stating, "We could not meet him in business or casual contact without knowing to Whom he belonged and without receiving from him some word or symbol to remind us of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and our obligation to Him." In addition to serving these organizations well, Granddaddy led many people to Christ, including me. When I was nine years old, I sat down with Granddaddy and told him, "I wanted Jesus in my heart". Granddaddy held me in his lap and "prayed" the Believer's Prayer with me.

In addition, his main ministry was in giving out crosses with a poem attached to anyone with whom he came in contact. He literally passed out thousands of crosses throughout the world. Recently, a good friend of mine told me she still carries the cross my Granddaddy gave her years ago. Hearing how my Granddaddy had an influence on her life touched my heart. Living his life to the fullest to glorify the Lord, my Granddaddy proved himself to be praise deserving.

Always a Christian example, my Granddaddy had a caring and compassionate heart and was truly generous. He was always willing to give his time, energy, and money to help others, never expecting any recognition in return. At the funeral home, many people told my family and me stories of how my Granddaddy had helped them. For instance, one young lady said that Granddaddy arranged an interview for her first job. Another told us that Granddaddy helped him financially so that he could attend college. A preacher told us

that Granddaddy had given him money to fund a mission trip. My Grandmother has continued to receive letters from people relating story after story of Granddaddy's good deeds, most of which she never knew. Similarly, one afternoon when I was visiting him, a black man came to the door asking for money. In return, my Granddaddy gave him twenty dollars and a tiny cross and poem to carry in his pocket. Certainly, my Granddaddy will always be remembered as a kind and generous man.

My Granddaddy was also an extraordinary grandparent. Sitting down with him to listen to his stories was one of my favorite pastimes. His life was a fabulous book filled with interesting events such as his childhood jobs, his participation in World War II, and falling in love and marrying. Because he also took literally millions of pictures, my Granddaddy and I enjoyed watching slide shows together of his many exotic vacations to places like Europe, the Holy Land, and destinations all over the United States. As his first grandchild, I believe I brought out another side of my Granddaddy. For instance, in his office, he and I would play doctor's office. He would usually be the doctor and I the receptionist. Sometimes, we would switch roles with him as the patient and me the doctor; he made time for that special play activity as a grandparent. After his death, many of his friends commented on how much he loved my sister and me. Certainly, there was never a moment when I was with him that I did not feel loved or protected. Even when he was in the hospital, he assured me that he would always take care of me. Unfortunately, my Granddaddy died the day after we shared that conversation. However, today, I still have faith in his vigil, caring eyes protecting me from above. I like to think he is watching me and is proud of me. I would never want to disappoint such a wonderful grandparent as he.

With absolutely no flaws in my eyes, my Granddaddy was an excellent role model. By far, he was the kind of individual everyone only dreams to be. My Granddaddy was and still is the person after whom I try to pattern my own life. I wish I could have said, "Goodbye, thank you, and I love you," before he left. Perhaps he is looking down at me and realizes what a major impact he had on my life. Many times, my Granddaddy passed out tracts that stated, "If you meet James Thomas and forget him, you have lost nothing. If you forget Jesus Christ, you have lost everything." However, for the many who met and knew him, my Granddaddy will never be forgotten.

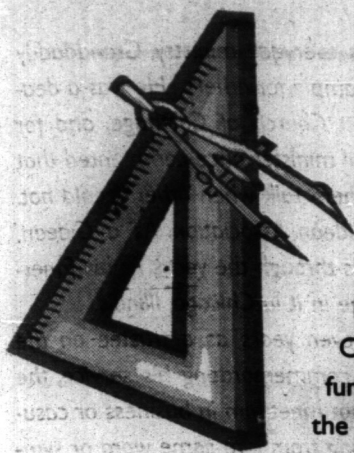
Ashley Crawford, Granddaughter, 1st Alternate - 1999 Mississippi Junior Miss

James and Luvie Thomas have two daughters: Carol Jo Thomas Barnes is a CPA and partner in Cole, Evans & Peterson, CPAs in Shreveport, Louisiana. She is married to Ed Salley and they are members of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport.

Amy Thomas Crawford manages the family owned real estate and lives in Starkville, Mississippi. She is married to Scotty Crawford, and they have two daughters, Ashley Crawford and Laura Crawford. They are members of First Baptist Church in Starkville.



Left to right: Amy Crawford, daughter; Vince Martin, scholarship recipient; Mrs. Luvie Thomas, wife; Carol Jo Barnes Salley, daughter; Ryan Culpepper, scholarship recipient; Laura Crawford, granddaughter; Melanie Lawler, scholarship recipient and Hal Fisher, Mississippi Baptist Foundation Director.



Estate Planning Tools for Giving

Outright Gift

You can make a gift to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and designate it for any or all Baptist Causes, from your local church, to the World Hunger fund at the International Mission Board. With your gift to the Baptist Foundation you will know your gift will be used as you directed until Christ comes again.

Outright Gift of Appreciated Property

Appreciated property, such as stocks and mutual funds, make good giving vehicles. By making a gift of appreciated assets, your tax deduction is based on the fair market value of the asset and not your cost. Thus you do not incur the capital gains tax which would be due had you sold the asset and then made a gift.

Gift Through Will

Through your Will you can specify an amount or a percentage of your estate to be given to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and used to provide financial resources to the Baptist cause or causes you desire.

Charitable Remainder Trust

The Charitable Remainder Trust allows you to make a gift today while you continue to receive the income from the gift for your lifetime with the remainder to a Baptist cause at your death. The Charitable Remainder Trust is flexible allowing the income to be paid to you and your spouse or you, your spouse, and your children.

Charitable Lead Trust

The Charitable Lead Trust allows you to establish a trust with the income paid to the Baptist cause you specify with the remainder paid back to you or to members of your family after a period of years.

Charitable Gift Annuity

The Charitable Gift Annuity allows you to make a gift today and get the income back for your lifetime. At your death the remainder is paid to the Baptist cause you specify.

Pooled Income Fund

The Pooled Income Fund pays income back to the donor with the remainder to a Baptist cause. This is a great giving vehicle for smaller gifts.

Life Insurance

You can make the Mississippi Baptist Foundation the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy you do not need any more, or purchase a new policy naming the Baptist Foundation as owner and beneficiary. This is a great way to make a gift to further the cause of Christ.

Remainder Interest in Real Property

You can make a gift of your house or farm while retaining the right to live in the house until your death. You have the assurance that your house or farm will be used at your death for the Baptist cause you directed.

These giving tools may sound complicated to you, but they are easy for us. The Foundation recognizes each individual's particular needs, and goals; we strive to provide our services in a personal and professional manner. We will be glad to visit with you, your family, and your financial advisors to discuss the pros and cons of each gift type to find the one that best fits you.

The purpose of this publication, prepared by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, is to provide helpful information of a general nature. It is not intended as a source of specific legal or tax advice.

1998 Seminary Scholarship Recipients

Each year the Mississippi Baptist Foundation awards scholarships to Mississippi students attending any of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. These scholarships are made possible by the generosity of Mississippi Baptists who have established endowment funds over the years designated for seminary scholarships.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

Alan L. Cross
Stephen O. Orr
Kristen Langford Simpson
David Thurman

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Charles Ray
Craig Smith
George Leslie Wooten

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Kelly Anderson
Jennifer Baker
Rex Baker
Christopher J. Barrow
Anthony R. Beazley
Trenton Wayne Bilbo
Michael Bird
William T. Boren
Michael Bowers
Garland Boyd
Donald Breshler, Jr.
Charles T. (Chuck) Brister
Stephanie Michelle Brown
Weston Burnside
Joel Busbee, Jr.
Clayton B. Carver, Jr.
Melissa Jean Casteel
Rebecca Caston
Bennie C. Caston, Jr.
Marcus Cathey
Jacqueline D. Chatel
Kaysha Clark
Hal Jackson Clark
Keven Clifton
Taronta Cole
Mark E. Coleman
Alexander R. Craft
Roan Crain
Timothy Clark Daniels
Tony Dewayne Davis
Gregory A. Davis
Tommy Davis
Dave Dowdy
Thomas L. Edwards
Marvin M. Farrior, Jr.
Richard Grady Floyd
Bernard A. Gibson, Jr.
Michael Giles
Mr. Dan Glenn
K. Duane Graves
Roland Hall
April Harper
Ronnie Olen Hatfield
Mark S. Hayman
Andrea Suzann Eves Herrington
John Hollowell
Joel D. Hudson
Tony Inmon
John D. Jones
Joe Kelly
Shad Kennedy
Breck T. Ladd

Melanie Lawler
Timothy D. Lee
Mickey Little
Matthew E. Loving
Vince Martin
William Andy May
Rose McCain
Donald Ray McCain
Perry McCall
William E. McMullan
Michelle McMurphy
Marvin Miller
John Manning Minton
James Charles Moore, Jr.
Michael Morgan
David Morris
Michael Mote
Kevin E. Nagy
Timothy Leigh Parker
Melanie Partridge
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Robert Purvis
Carra Purvis
Jeffrey J. Rankin
Robin Elizabeth Reid
R. Nichole Roberts
Bradley Marvin Rushing
Brian Rushing
Tina M. Russell
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Leon Wallace
Tris Marcus Wanker, II
James A. Wells
Kevin White
Julia Massey Williams
Roger Anthony Williams
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James Tillman Wright, Jr.
Mark Yeatman

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Timothy N. Bumpus
Marcia da Silva de Oliveira
Charles Brian Tillman
Corey L. Tutor
Christopher James West

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Clay Anthony
Brent A. Colley
Bobby D. Daniel
Stanley Huddleston

Robert Clark Logan, Jr.
Dareen (Dee) Beasley McCardle
Jeanne Nation
Michael Eugene Packard
Mark W. Shaw
Douglas Tillman
Harold Turner
James Titus Tyer

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Michael Kevin Aoa
Tammy Baker
Pamela Bice
Cina Bishop
Heather Anne Booth
E. Christopher Burgin
Robin Elaine Cook Burgin
David T. Carley
Christy Carley
Mark Alan Celoria
John L. Chappellear
Pamela E. Coghlan
Preston Crowe
Ryan Culpepper
Christopher Mark Davis
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Tina Vineyard
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Carson E. Whitehead
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(800) 748-1651

After Hours and During Holidays:
601-968-0901
Fax 601-968-0904



Services of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation

Estate Stewardship

The Foundation promotes estate stewardship by offering three general seminars. Each seminar is designed to fit into the time allotted during discipleship training or perhaps a group luncheon. To schedule one or all of the free seminars for your church, please call the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Will Seminar — features a discussion of the Last Will and Testament and its importance, including a discussion of valid wills in Mississippi, the probate process, estate taxes, property ownership, and gifts to the Lord's work.

Investment Seminar — features a discussion of investments to help individuals understand the concept of risk vs. return, the importance of asset allocation, and the various classes of assets that can be used to meet an individual's investment objective.

Financial Gifts Seminar — features a discussion of the tax advantages and the methods for making charitable gifts, including outright gifts, appreciated property gifts, insurance gifts, and life income gifts such as the charitable remainder trust, gift annuity and the pooled income fund.

Mississippi Baptist Foundation 1998 Year in Review

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is an example of the generosity of Mississippi Baptists. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation received \$7,453,648.00 in assets for management for the twelve months ended June 30, 1998. These gifts ultimately benefit local churches, local mission causes, our Mississippi Baptist colleges, the Children's Village, Southern Baptist seminaries, and Home and Foreign missions. The Foundation distributed \$1,869,216.00 in income to various Baptist causes during the year.

Total assets of the Foundation grew to \$48,475,583.00, an increase of 22.1% over last year. The growth continues a trend that has seen the Foundation grow from \$14,317,425.00 in assets just eleven (11) years ago to the current level of \$48.4 million, an increase of 238.58%.

The Foundation also helped secure future gifts for many Baptist causes by working with individuals on an estate plan, generally centered around a Will. The Foundation led in numerous seminars promoting estate stewardship. The seminars covered topics such as the importance of a Will, Estate Planning Issues, Investments, and Charitable Gifts.

How To Reach Us...

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is located in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Building.
515 Mississippi Street • Suite 203 • Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205
E-mail: mbf@misnet.com

Phone:
(601) 292-3210
(800) 748-1651

After Hours and During Holidays:
601-968-0901
Fax 601-968-0904

Investment Performance

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation provides money management services for Mississippi Baptist churches, institutions, and agencies, as well as for its own accounts. The Foundation investment services are more fully described below.

MBF Equity Fund, a growth stock fund, is designed for capital appreciation, with little emphasis on income. The Fund is invested in stock offerings of U.S. and international corporations by four outside professional money managers. The investment performance of the fund is as follows:

For period July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998:

MBF Equity Fund 19.6%

For period July 1, 1993, through June 30, 1998: (annualized)

MBF Equity Fund 18.32%

MBF Fixed Income Fund, a bond fund, is designed to provide income, with little attention given to capital appreciation. The Fund is invested in U.S. government securities and corporate bonds by two outside professional money managers. The investment performance of the Fund is as follows:

For period July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998:

MBF Fixed Income Fund 9.77%

For period March 31, 1994, through June 30, 1998: (annualized)

MBF Fixed Income Fund 8.51%



INVESTMENTS

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation provides money management services for Mississippi Baptist churches, institutions, and agencies, as well as for its own accounts. The Foundation pools all its assets into common pooled funds that operate in much the same way as mutual funds thereby affording quality investment management even for the smallest account. The Baptist Foundation uses professional money managers chosen based on their specific style of investing and their above average historical rates of return. By combining money managers with specific styles of investing, the Foundation gains diversification, reduced risk, and hopefully greater overall investment returns. The investment services are more fully described below.

MBF Equity Fund, a growth stock fund, is designed for capital appreciation with little emphasis on income. The Fund is invested in stock offerings of U.S. corporations as well as international corporations by four (4) outside professional money managers. The performance goal of the fund is to outperform the Standard and Poors 500 market index.

MBF Fixed Income Fund, a bond fund, is designed to provide income, with little attention paid to capital appreciation. The Fund is invested in U.S. government securities and corporate bonds by three (3) outside professional money managers. The performance goal of the fund is to outperform the Lehman Brothers Aggregate market index.

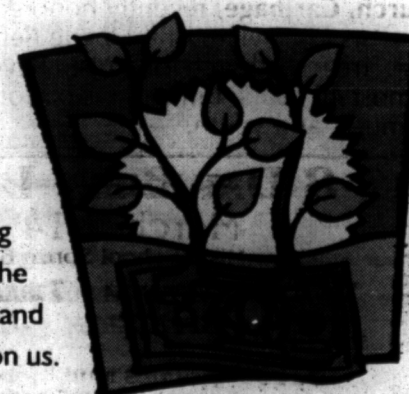
MBF Short Term Cash Fund, an enhanced money market fund, is designed to outperform the current yields from six and twelve month certificate of deposit, as well as the 91-day Treasury bill rate. The Short-Term Cash Fund matches a competitive rate of return with full liquidity. The Fund is managed by one outside professional money manager. The performance goal of the fund is to outperform the rates of return on one-year certificates of deposit and U.S. Treasury bills.

MBF General Endowment Fund is designed to meet the long term investment objectives of perpetual endowment accounts. The Endowment Fund seeks to provide income while guarding against the effects of inflation. The Endowment Fund is invested in a preset allocation between stocks and bonds, which is currently 30% in the MBF Equity Fund and 70% in the MBF Fixed Income Fund.

Pooled Income Fund, designed under the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service, provides income to the individual investor for their lifetime and then to charity at their death. The Pooled Income Fund is available to anyone wishing to provide future financial resources for Baptist causes. The Pooled Income Fund is currently 100% invested in the MBF Fixed Income Fund.

In some cases the Mississippi Baptist Foundation also makes individual investments for accounts whose investment objective does not permit an investment in one of the Baptist Foundation's common funds.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation — providing services to Mississippi Baptists who are interested in providing financial resources to further the cause of Christ in Mississippi and around the world. Please call on us.



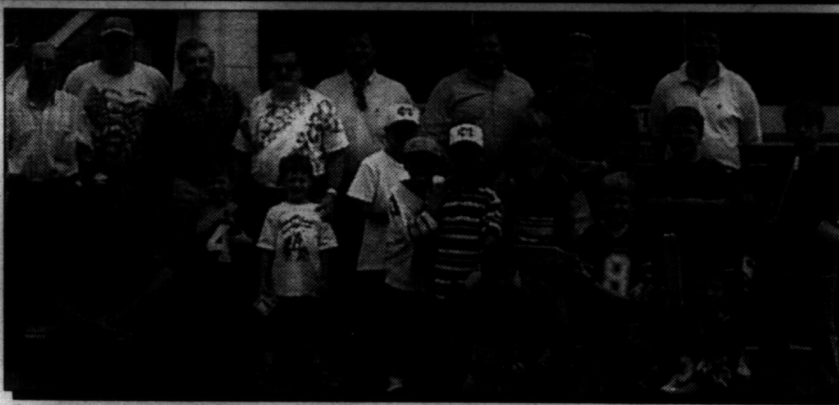
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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Unity Church, Leakesville, has volunteered to be the drop off point for Operation Christmas Child (a unique project of Christian relief and evangelism organization) for Greene and George counties and surrounding areas. The deadline is Nov. 15. For more information, call Micah Rutland, pastor, at (601) 394-4887 or 394-2823. For the collection center nearest you, and collection dates, call 1-(800)-353-3949.

Larnell Harris will be in concert with special guest Becca Jackson at First Church, Starkville, 7 p.m., Nov. 21. For more information, call Beverly Rives at (601) 323-8188.

Dallas Holm will be in concert at First Church, Greenwood, 7 p.m. on Nov. 11. Canned good or non-perishable food item will be collected to help feed the needy. For further information, contact the church at (601) 453-3075.



RAs of Tylertown Church, Tylertown, attended the Mississippi College's RA Day on Oct. 3. Those attending (pictured, front row) were Taylor Stringer, Drew Kennedy, Jeremy Turner, Justin Dyar, Cassidy Hilburn; (second row) Clint McMurray, Jared Martin, Charles Martin, Michael Watts, Chase Copeland, Rick Guy, Taner Alford, Kevin Copeland; (back row) Cecil Hilburn, Stevie Kennedy, Kenny Adams, Wayne Martin, Trent Stringer, Andy Dillon, Tony Stringer, and Scott Dyar.



DeSoto Church, Shubuta, recently held ground breaking services for a Christian Growth Center. Pictured are Dewayne Crane, challenge to build director; Robert Evans, finance chairman; Ray Mosley, long range chairman; C. E. Sellers, deacon emeritus; Dick Younger, building committee chairman; Norman Robinson, pastor; and B. G. Glass, chairman of deacons.

West Heights Church, Pontotoc, recently recognized its GAs for 1997-98. Charm bracelets were earned for their participation in World Ventures. Badges were earned for various mission activities. Vivian Flamenco is GA director. David Hamilton is pastor.

Cedar Grove Church, Marion Association, will honor Robert E. Jones as pastor emeritus on Nov. 8 at 10:50 a.m. Lunch will be served in the activity building following the service.



Jones

Jones will be celebrating 51 years of service in the ministry.

Leaf River Church, Smith County, will observe Candlelight Lord's Supper during the evening service on Nov. 22. Thanksgiving Dinner will follow the morning service.

Unity Church, Ripley, will host a Bible Conference, Nov. 9-11, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day. Speakers will be John Phillips, author, and Tom Hayes, evangelist, both of North Carolina. Ronnie Barefield is pastor.

Mission Team from Northwest Association,



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



Acts Too, the drama team of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) of Mississippi State University (MSU), is available for performances in church services, retreats, Disciple Nows, and other youth events. The members are (front row) Matthew Reed of Starkville, Leslie Bosarge of Vicksburg, Kristen Goode of Olive Branch, Keith Cline of Mendenhall; (back row) Beth White of Columbus, AJ Adams of Marietta, and Jamie Vickers of Starkville. To schedule Acts Too call the MSU-BSU office, (601) 323-5761.



Trinity Church, Carthage, recently honored its church accompanists for their years of service. Ann Hogue (left), church pianist, and Brenda Ingram (right), church organist, have both served Trinity Church for almost 40 years. Bill Stout is pastor and Kinsey Goldman is minister of music and youth.



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Members of Mission Team from Northwest Association



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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Sylva Rena Church, Water Valley, presented Vernon Barton with a plaque of recognition for 28 years of service as deacon on Oct. 11. The plaque also made special mention of his wife Gertrude who has supported his work. Deacons (pictured from left, back row) with Barton (who is seated) are Ray Eubanks, Walter Musick, Frank Brown, Cecil Walker; (front row) James Hudson, chairman, Willie Pullen, John Moore, and David Sapp, pastor.



Beulah Church, Newton Association, recently ordained David Earl Robinson to the ministry. Pictured (from left) are Byron Howell, pastor, David Earl and Sonya Robinson.



Chris Colburn (right) was ordained to the ministry at Becker Church, Becker, on Oct. 4. He was presented a certificate of ordination by David Jay (left), pastor.



Mark Engram (left) is available for pulpit supply, revivals, and part-time or full-time ministry. Engram recently earned an associate degree in Biblical studies through Andersonville Baptist Seminary. He is pictured with Bob Smith, pastor of Conehatta Church, Conehatta.



Larry Eubanks was recently ordained as a deacon by 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg. Pictured (from left) are Wiley Abel, pastor, and Eubanks.



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evangelical organization has been meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children for 103 years. Compensation includes housing, food, insurance and retirement. This is not a behavior modification facility. Call Mr. Taylor at Palmer Home for Children (601) 328-5216.

NOTCH ESTATES—BRANSON, MO. Condo near Silver Dollar City. 2BR, 2BA, sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th free; or 4 nights, 5th free. Free continental breakfast. \$105 daily. All visitors eligible for drawing to receive free 4 day return trip. Call (601) 746-4632.

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HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH of Douglasville, Ga. is seeking a full time Minister of Music and Youth. If you are available for consideration and would like more information about the church and the position, please mail your resume to 8800 Rose Avenue, Douglasville, GA 30135 or

fax to (770) 947-0544.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC AND YOUTH: Hillcrest Baptist Church in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Please send resume to Hillcrest Baptist Church, Attn. Search Committee, 1505 South Main St. Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-in, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS (601) 372-7700.

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14x80 mobile home never saw smoke or alcohol, was bathed daily in prayer and Bible Study. 15 years old, in excellent condition. Exterior repainted 2 years ago, central heat and air. Must be moved from park in Clinton. A blessing at \$9995. Washer and dryer negotiable. Call John Landrum Jr. at 228-863-0211 (Gulfport).

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Individual must possess desire/ability for assisting the church in creating new ministry models and a willingness to have responsibilities directed by developing as well as existing needs. Send resume to Associate Pastor Search Committee, Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan St., St. Louis, MO 63139.

ATTENTION: committed couples to work full-time with "at-risk" children in residential setting. Opportunities throughout Alabama. Minimum HS diploma. Benefits include BC/BS PMD, TDA, life insurance, sick leave, vacation, living expenses. Call 1-800-548-4256 or write to Box 240009 Montgomery, AL 36124-0009.

MS Positions Available

DIRECTOR OF WEEKDAY CHILD CARE/EDUCATION PROGRAM: First Baptist Church, Madison. Applicants must meet Mississippi state licensure requirements. For additional information, contact Glenn Holder, Church Business Administrator, PO Box 400, Madison, MS 39130-0400.

TEACH THE WORD

Editor:

For nearly sixty years, I have been serving our Baptist Churches and colleges across the SBC. In spite of our great buildings and excellent staff people in these churches, I am often appalled by the weak quality of teaching done in some of these churches.

Yet, I read letters and other items from our people which indicate they are disturbed that prayer and Bible teaching are prohibited in our public schools. I am disturbed by the evident failure of our people to see the relationship between our ineffectiveness in the church-house and the rejection of our teaching in the schools. This prohibition upon our schools should spur us to greater diligence in preaching and teaching in the church-houses.

The Great Commission in Matt. 18:19-20 has three parts in its charge: 1) to make disciples — evangelize; 2) to baptize; 3) to teach "them all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Only then does our Lord promise to "be with you always."

My plea to you is that we get our eyes off the politicians and public media, and focus them again fully and completely upon the Lord Jesus rejoicing in the privilege and opportunity he has given us to teach his Word in his house as he would have it.

Charley L. Sandifer
Water Valley

ANSWER HIS CALL

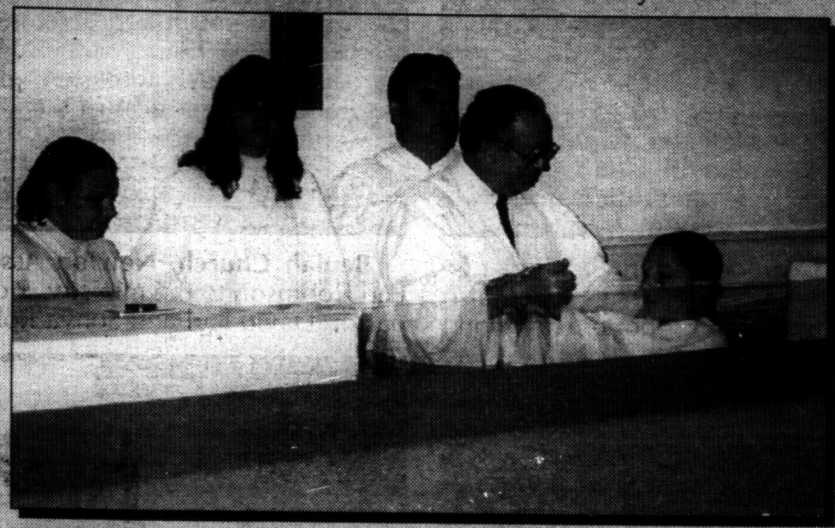
Editor:

An unusual mission trip was made to Iowa this summer. A team led by Mackie Davis went to Glenwood, a town of 5,000 in the rolling hills of western Iowa. Pastor Lonnie Hulsey told us the church was three years old and built with volunteer construction teams from the South.

We painted, installed windows in concrete walls, built

partitions, installed sheet rock, finished it, and did other smaller jobs. Two rooms were made usable and in two others the small children could see God's wonders — outside. The director of missions, Tim Elliott, was asked what the churches needed most, and the answer was baptisteries.

Through the efforts of The Baptist Record, three baptisteries were located at Monticello Church, Columbus, and Faith Church, Hickory Flat.



One went to Sioux Rapid Church, Sioux Rapids, Iowa. One to East Omaha and the third installed at Calvary Church, Glenwood, by the Mississippi team.

Very few churches in Iowa have baptisteries. Hulsey has had (a baptistry) available only five years of his 42-year ministry.

All four members of the Olson family were the first to be baptized (left), but eight others were baptized the next two Sundays.

The one we installed came from Monticello Church.

As you sit comfortably in your church, it's amazing the jobs God has waiting — for someone like you to say "God I'm available."

Answer his call by contacting your director of missions or the Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Mackie Davis
Hattiesburg

O'Brien makes first office appearance since stroke

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Greeted by dozens of cheering employees, Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), visited the organization's national headquarters for the first time Oct. 22 after suffering a mild stroke Sept. 26. In addition to an extended ovation from employees, O'Brien also was greeted by a large banner read-

ing, "Welcome back! We love you. We missed you." O'Brien's return to the national headquarters was an emotional experience for her and the employees. Unable to speak for a few moments, O'Brien finally told the employees in a broken voice, "Now, I'm home. ... You have overwhelmed me." She is continuing physical therapy, and no date has been set for her return to full-time work.

REVIVAL DATES

Enon (Grenada): Nov. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Garland McKee, Clinton, evangelist; James Earl Turner, music; Al Finch, pastor.

Calvary, West Point: Nov. 8-11; 10 a.m. Sunday, and 7 p.m. nightly; Michael Mason, Decatur, Ala., evangelist; Monty Bounds, music; Martin Steelmon, pastor.

Wesson (Copiah): Nov. 8-13; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; speakers each night are: Sunday, Joel Haire; Mon., Kermit McGregor; Tues., Jimmy Porter; Wed., Sonny Adkins; Thurs., Jim Futral; and Fri., Ken Anderson; James Dykes, Wesson Church, music; Mike Carr, pastor.

Beulah, Lexington: Nov. 15-18; 7 p.m. nightly; Bobby Williamson, Lexington, evangelist; Richard C. Patrick, Durant, music; Douglas L. Lawson, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: Nov. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.;

Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Meridian, evangelist; Ron Simpson, Antioch Church, music; Edward Knox, pastor.

Zion Hill, Wesson: Nov. 8-11; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 10:45 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and afternoon service to follow; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gerald Aultman, evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, music; Tom McCormick, pastor.

Military, Sumrall: Nov. 8-11; services, 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. nightly; James Messer, evangelist; Danny Shows, music; Mike Aultman, pastor.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Bringing understanding

Psalm 73:1-3, 12-13, 16-18, 21-26

By Greg Bowers

If we are honest, most of us will admit that there are times when we become frustrated or even angry at God. That's why Psalm 73 is so timely. It is a leaf from the diary of a man whose faith is on trial. He has been trying to do right, but everything has gone wrong and consequently, his faith has become weak. What honesty! This is one of the great values of the Psalms. They tell about real human emotions felt by people who are just like us. Even though we are safe in Jesus' arms, we still live in a sinful world where evil prospers and Christians don't always come out on top. Psalm 73 is a

reminder that God is good and that God is fair.

Insufficient data (vv. 1-3). The Psalmist begins his story in a unique way, with his conclusion. It is as if he says, "I'm going to tell you about my life, but let me first state my conclusion. I have learned that God is always good to his people." Having established his point, he then begins to tell about experiences with which most of us can relate. In verse two, he confesses that he had almost turned away from God. He almost strayed off of the narrow path onto the wide road which ultimately leads to destruction. What had such an



Bowers

impact on him as to almost sidetrack him? He was envious of the prosperity of the wicked and foolish. "Foolish" here is a Hebrew word that means "to boast." Not only were they prospering, they were "rubbing his nose" in their good fortune. When we watch television and see entertainers thumb their noses at God and flaunt their wealth, it often generates a sense of moral outrage. Don't allow that moral outrage to degenerate into seething jealousy. In doing so, you run the risk of being sidetracked in your walk with God.

Wrong conclusion (vv. 12-13). Does it pay to serve God? That depends on what you mean by the word "pay." Serving God will bring tremendous spiritual, social, and emotional rewards, but it may not enrich us financially. The Psalmist saw all of the

wealth of the wicked and began to wonder out loud about the necessity of serving God. In his irrational logic, he supposed that his service should have counted for some sort of financial windfall. When the windfall did not come, he second guessed the benefits of serving God at all.

Key insight (vv. 16-18). The Psalmist made a smart decision. He went to church! In church something marvelous happened. He gained new insight into his spiritual problems. God reminded him of something he had obviously forgotten: wicked people, regardless of their stock portfolio, are going to be destroyed. They will not stand for long because their wealth has blinded them to their need for God. Sometimes we want to place God on a timetable, wanting him to send well-placed lightning bolts down upon the wicked. Wickedness will ultimately be judged, but it will be

in God's timing and not ours.

Renewed confidence (vv. 21-26). After the Psalmist's experience in church, he was convicted about his previous feelings about God. He confessed to having acted like a beast before him. He shared some of what he learned from the experience: 1) God is always with us; 2) God leads us by holding our hands; 3) God guides us with his perfect counsel; 4) God will receive us into his glory some day; and 5) our strength will fail, but God is the source of strength. In verse 28, he makes three fresh commitments to God: 1) he will stay close to God; 2) he will trust the Lord fully, even when he doesn't understand what is happening; and 3) he will share with others what God has done in his life. What will you learn and what commitments will you make this week?

Bowers is pastor of First Church, Indianola.

LIFE AND WORK

Making a good start

Nehemiah 2:12, 15-20; 3:1-2, 22-23

By Michael Johnson

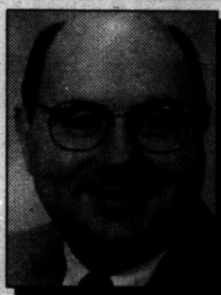
Popular author John White tells the story of a woman missionary who felt rather foolish when she realized customs officials were puzzled at the host of things in her bags she thought she would never be able to get in such a 'backward' country as Argentina! In this week's lesson we will examine how we can effectively begin the God-given task that has been discovered.

Analyze the need (2:12, 15-16). The missionary story is a good example of how important it is to do our 'homework.' Even before Nehemiah discussed the situation with the king, we learn in 1:2 that he had sought out first hand reports on the condi-

tions in Jerusalem. Now having arrived in the city, he conducted a personal survey of the city walls at night. Only when he was confident that he knew all the facts did Nehemiah begin to make his final plans.

How often are our best intentions handicapped by a poor understanding of the problem? Living in a society which is constantly seeking 'quick fixes' and 'simple solutions', we need to proceed with caution. Good stewardship requires careful planning so maximum benefit can be gained.

Enlist others (2:17-18). In these two short verses Nehemiah provides a good example of how



Johnson

to motivate others. First, he identifies with the people; 'this is not their problem but our problem.' Second, he succinctly and accurately presents the problem and a solution. The walls and gates of Jerusalem need to be rebuilt, so, let us rebuild! Third, through personal testimony Nehemiah shares his confidence in their ability to accomplish the task.

If we have been called to accomplish something that is bigger than ourselves, then we can follow the example set by Nehemiah to challenge and enlist others to help us.

Overcoming obstacles (2:19-20). It is ironic that those who seek to do something new are those who are often the most criticized. The leader, however, can decide to accept the criticism or overcome it. Robert Frost had his poems rejected by The Atlantic Monthly, as being 'too vigorous'.

In 1905 the University of Bern turned down a Ph.D. dissertation as being irrelevant and fanciful. The student was Albert Einstein. A sixteen year old received his report card with the teacher's assessment of 'a conspicuous lack of success'. The young lad was Winston Churchill.

Almost immediately after the work on the walls began, Nehemiah was mocked and ridiculed by others. Nehemiah, however, was confident because he was doing God's will. We can be just as confident when we follow God's leadership in doing the things he would have us do; regardless of the world's opinion.

Organize. (Nehemiah 3:1-2, 22-23) Several years ago in Clinton, citizens were motivated to construct a terrific community playground for children. After the vision was shared and embraced; funds raised and materials secured; the day finally came for the

actual work to be done. As one of many volunteers it was immediately evident that this job was organized. As soon as a volunteer arrived, they were signed in and a determination was made of their construction skill level. Assigned to a work crew, specific assignments were made. All the materials needed were on site. It was a very positive experience to contribute to something that would benefit my community.

Nehemiah was just as organized. He assigned specific tasks to each person. Everyone was working towards a common goal. Workers were motivated because they were protecting their own interests.

May God bless our own efforts as we seek to be faithful to completing the work to which we have been called.

Johnson is a professor in the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department at Mississippi College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Foundations for right living

Exodus 20:1-17

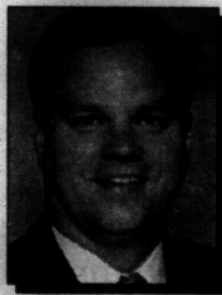
By Walter M. Blackman

A young married pastor with no children preached a wonderful sermon entitled, "Ten Commandments for Raising Children." A couple of years later after having his first child, he preached the sermon again, but changed the title to "Ten Guidelines for Raising Children." Another child came, and when he preached the sermon again it was entitled, "Ten Suggestions for Raising Children." Another child came and he changed the sermon to "Ten Hints for Raising Children." He had another child and never preached the sermon again.

For many people, God's commandments have become mere guidelines, suggestions,

or hints. Others have ignored them completely. The Lord gave the Ten Commandments to Moses to form the foundation for the lives of his children.

Relating to God (20:1-11). The Lord began the Ten Commandments by identifying himself as Yahweh, the author of the covenant. The reason God initiated the covenant with the Israelites was to enter into a redemptive relationship culminating in the salvation of the world. The first commandment demanded only the Lord would be God to his people. Other ancient people worshiped more than one god, but Israel was to worship the only true and living God. The second commandment



Blackman

protected the separateness of God from his creation. Idols were common among ancient peoples, but God could not be reduced to a mere man-made form. The third commandment protected the name of God from abuse. In biblical times, a name conveyed something significant about the person. Ancient worship included the use of a god's name for incantations and swearing of oaths. God's name was deserving of man's highest respect. To use God's name for profanity, perjury, or personal profit was an invitation to divine punishment. The fourth commandment protected the worship of God. God's people were to 'remember' and 'to keep' the day of rest and worship separate from the other days of work. Through the keeping of the Sabbath, God not only provided for man's need for physical rest, but also spiritual renewal. The observance of the Sabbath

has changed for Christians from the seventh day to the first day of the week in celebration of the resurrection of Christ, the birth of the Church at Pentecost. The principle of giving the Lord one day out of seven is still foundational to physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Relating to others (20:12-17). Rightly relating to God means rightly relating to our fellow human beings. Six commandments are devoted to our relationship with others. The fifth commandment protected the family structure—the foundational structure of society. Our relationship to God and others is directly affected by our relationship to our parents. A loving relationship between parents and children makes loving God and others easier. The sixth commandment protected the life of other human beings. Human life is sacred and the murder of human beings, including abortion, euthanasia, and suicide is a direct violation

of God's commandment. The seventh commandment protected the sanctity of the marriage relationship. Adultery destroys God's purpose in creating the institution of marriage and brings judgment upon those involved. Many marriages and homes have been destroyed through disobedience of the seventh commandment. The eighth commandment protected private property as well as personal freedom. The ninth commandment protected the right of everyone to a fair and truthful trial. The tenth commandment protected a person from his own envy. A person who coveted his neighbor's wife could also become guilty of adultery, stealing, and murder (2 Sam. 11).

All Ten Commandments challenge us to be rightly related to God and to others in order to fulfill God's redemptive plan for us and our world.

Blackman is pastor of First Church, Marion.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

OCTOBER 1-31, 1998 HONORS

Mrs. Marie Boone
Alla Fike SSC, Prentiss BC
Rev. & Mrs. John Brock
The L. Crosby Sykes Family
James M. & Corey C. Cothren
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Cothren
Dr. Neil T. Gant
Eugene & Mary Sue Trussell
Harvey & Agnes Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Churchwell
Bro. Jimmy & Mrs. Catherine McGee
Ms. Lillian G. Hayward
Mrs. Martha Propst
Eloise Crossley SSC, FBC-Columbus
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Reeves
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister SMCC
Rev. & Mrs. Ronny E. Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Gaylord
Rev. Bill Stanford
Mr. & Mrs. John Lumpkin

Mrs. Hassierone Adair
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland
Mr. E. L. Adams, Sr.
Mrs. Martha C. Stark
Mrs. Josie Adams
Lauderdale City Baptist Association
Mrs. (Jane Cole's mother) Alexander
Ms. Desma H. Kilpatrick
Mr. William Allen
Gary & Cheryl Myers
Ruth Myers
Lynda Swearingin
Hoyt & Van Tyner
Mary Jo Tyner
Ruth Alleg
Adult Men's SSC, Harmony BC
Charles Allman
Mr. & Mrs. John Wayne VanHorn
Shelly Anders
Morgan Chapel Baptist Church
Madell Bagley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edward Lee

Donna Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Charles O. Freeman
Mrs. Evelyn Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford E. Trussell
J. V. Bates
Leslie B. Lambert
Cohnie Beene
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Aubon Bernet
Mr. & Mrs. Bob C. McCord
E. L. & Shirley Bingham
Mr. Ronald D. Bingham
Texanna Black
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barbee
Dewey D. Blackledge
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Boykin
Mrs. Geneva T. Adams Blacklock
Galilee Baptist Church
The Ben Anders Family
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Diane Dykes
Mrs. Maude J. Barney
Robbie Blaylock
Rev. & Mrs. D. C. Hartley
Mrs. Bill Phillips
Mr. Jessie Bourland
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Mrs. Bobby Jean Bowering
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Flynt
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh K. Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mrs. Mary Charles Bowering
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mr. & Mrs. Albert S. Day, Jr.
Ms. Faye C. Rice
Ms. Becky Unland
Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Clark
Herman Bowman
Morgan Chapel Baptist Church
Mrs. Lois Bozman
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Mary H. Flanagan
Luther E. Branch
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders
Heath Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Rose Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Flynt
Cleasman R. Brooks
Mrs. Grace B. Luncford
Sylvia Sue Jones Brooks
Eva & Jimmy Jones
Mr. Lee Ellis Broome
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin M. Hefner
Otis B. Broome
Mr. & Mrs. John Anderson
Mrs. Mary N. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mrs. Ophia Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. Jack B. Martin
Mrs. Rachel Tramel
Brother of Djala Asadi
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel M. Dowdle
Mr. Charles Calhoun
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis
Curry Carroll
Mrs. Rosa B. Wade
Maggie Lee Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Baxter and Family
Frank Carson
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Polk
Pauline Chance
Mr. & Mrs. Hegman L. Dungan Jr.
Mrs. George B. (Marie) Chapman
Mrs. W. C. Gillis
Mrs. Valeria Cherry
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Everett
Miss Lenna Clement
Paula & Bill Davidson
Mrs. Jewel Cobbs
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen H. Fulce
Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Fulton
Duane Cockerham
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Eldridge



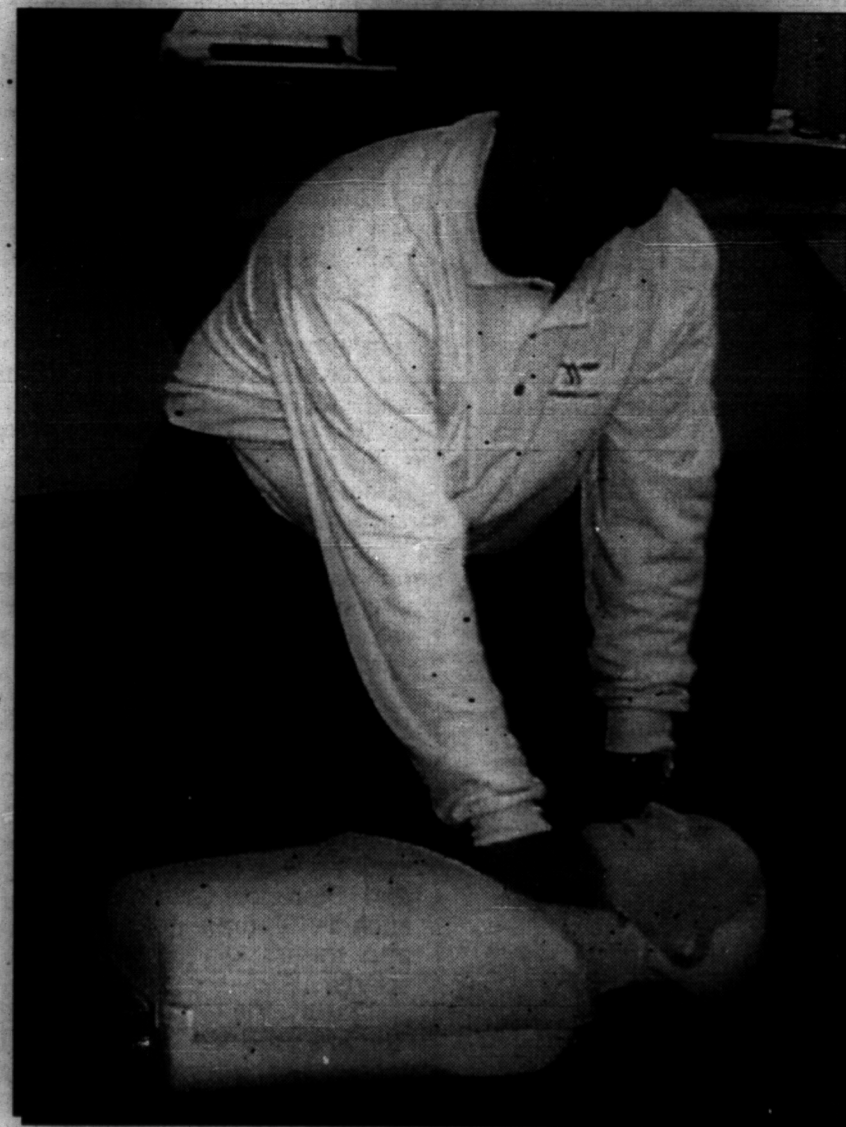
Mark Rosamond, Director of Properties, works with a volunteer group from Bovina Baptist Church in Vicksburg. The group helped make needed repairs around the campus.

Mrs. E. S. Cole, Sr.
Ms. Desma H. Kilpatrick
Mrs. Gwynneth Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Teasley
Rev. Grady F. Coleman, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Seth P. Ball
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Thomas Bailey Craven
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Blount
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Mrs. Winnie Crockett
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Simmon
Joe Brooks Cullom
Jack Cullom Family
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Mrs. Roxie Dew
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thornton
Paul Dew
The Louis K. Bell Family
Mrs. Lettie Drown
Herman, Sheron & Chris Coats
Miss Earline Woods
Mrs. Alma DuBoise
Calhoun County Baptist Association
Sara Duckworth
Lynn & Betty Beall
"Mac" Braswell
Jewel Myers
Sarah Shaw

Marjorie Dunaway
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. VanNorman
Rpyce Eckles
Ms. Brooksie Erskine
Clarice Eldridge
Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Fulton
Mrs. Farmer
Mr. & Mrs. Dicky Taylor
Clyde Fletcher
Dorcas SSC, Bowmar Avenue BC
Khaled Fokeladeh
Lee Walton and Family
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Weisinger
Mrs. Lou Forbes
Karen M. Johnson
Mrs. Dorothy Fortner
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams
Monna Franks
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris
Cole Freeman
Mr. Gordie Whittington
Eva Nell Furrow
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Turnbo Sr.
Skip Gann
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Lynch
James Paschal Gilbert
Mrs. Pete Evans
Mr. Johnny Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Coleman, Jr.

Karen Gilfoy
Mrs. J. R. Gilfoy
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Mr. & Mrs. Clifford E. Trussell
Mrs. Ernestine P. James
Miss Brittany Glenn
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Davenport
T. J. (Buster) Gordon
Ms. Ireta W. Graham
Margaret Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Childs
Mrs. Dave Grantham
Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Grantham & Jimmy
Margaret Gully
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar J. Garrett
Mrs. Rhonda Judge Haggard
Joyce & O. D. Judge, Jr.
Rev. Franklin Haire
Mr. & Mrs. Denver Kennedy
Aileen Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Jack D. Berry
Mrs. Ivy Hannaford
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Fuqua Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Hank A. Robison Jr.
Mrs. Lillian Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Charles O. Freeman
Mrs. Mary Harvey
Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Anderson

Mrs. Bobbie Carr Hawthorne
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams
Mrs. Jessie Hearn
Mr. & Mrs. James V. Whitaker
Mr. Spurgeon Mendensohn
Rita Greer
Mitzi Nations
Charlene Pennington
Mr. & Mrs. Kermeth W. Statham
Mike Booe
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Mrs. Nila Hopper
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Keith Howard
Mrs. Elizabeth G. Currey
Mrs. Marie F. Hall
Ms. Charlene C. Hardin
Mrs. Thomas G. Keith
Ms. Jewell Turnage
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Dalton Hutcherson
Mrs. Juanita F. Leake
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William Jones
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Lynn & Myron Johnson
Wayne King
Neil Haley
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Smith
Mr. E. Harmon Knight
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Gay
Mrs. Geraldine D. Knight
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Spraberry
Travis Land
Mr. & Mrs. John Wayne VanHorn



Chip Price, Assistant Director of Programs, facilitated a CPR and first aid training session for child care workers and other staff at the India Nunnery Campus to receive certification through the American Red Cross.

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Olympics ministry planning for 2000 games

HURST, Texas (BP) — When Olympic athletes go for gold, Sam Mings aims for glory.

He seeks glory not for himself nor for his country, but for Christ.

Mings heads Lay Witnesses for Christ

International, a ministry he founded two decades ago. His goal is to lead athletes to faith in Jesus Christ and to help them use their visibility to share the Christian message with admiring fans.

Friends called him "Miler Mings" when he ran track in suburban Fort Worth, Texas, in the 1950s. But now he's running a marathon — trying to recruit 2,500 to 3,500 Baptists to participate in "Reach-Out 2000," a ministry to the Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, Sept. 15-Oct. 1, 2000.

"We have a chance to touch the world and to evangelize Australia," declared Mings, a member of North

Richland Hills Church and a mile-a-minute talker who waves his arms in excitement as he describes the opportunities associated with his evangelistic mission.

"We need God to touch the hearts of athletes and fans from around the world and also to touch the hearts of Australians," he said. "Australia is a non-Christian nation. Less than 4% of Australians are Christians."

"But Australians love sports. Forty percent of Australians worship sports."

That's an attitude Mings has seen countless times as he's traveled the globe providing ministry at sporting venues.

Lay Witnesses for Christ has ministered at four Olympics — Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona, and Atlanta — as well as numerous track-and-field championships and other sports events.

The organization works in two primary spheres: One set of ministries serves the athletes, seeking to lead them to Christ and encouraging Christian athletes to live out their faith. The other capitalizes on sports fervor, showcasing the testimonies of Christian athletes who tell fans that their relationships with Christ are more valuable than gold medals.

Lay Witnesses for Christ has attracted a pantheon of Olympic stars. Foremost is Carl Lewis, the sprinter/long-jumper who dominated the Summer Olympics for years.

Mings also has worked with track stars such as world-record setters Leroy Burrell and Florence Griffith Joyner, swimmers such as Olympic gold medalist Josh Davis and thousands more athletes in various sports.

During the Olympics, Mings' organization has produced local "More Than Gold" rallies and televised "Evening with the Olympians" media galas, which have been broadcast around the world.

"We think 'multiplication,'" Mings said of the media-saturated ministries connected with the Olympics. "These athletes are cov-

ered by the media from around the world. If we can encourage an athlete to say, 'I'm running for the Lord,' stop to pray on the track after a race or wear a Christian T-shirt, that message will be shown around the world.

"God has given these athletes a platform to speak his name."

Mings will work with Lewis and other world-class athletes in Sydney during Reach-Out 2000, but he's recruiting an army of Baptist volunteers to fill out the rest of the ministry.

"We need people uniquely gifted in any way," he said. "We can use mimes, puppeteers and singers, as well as people to share their faith one-on-one, distribute literature and work with athletes. We need doctors and nurses and people with the gift for hospitality who can make athletes feel welcome."

Some volunteers will go door-to-door with Christian athletes, telling Australians about Jesus. Others will minister to non-Christian athletes.

Christian athletes also will lead clinics and demonstrations, visit hospitals and "draw crowds" for volunteers who share their faith, he said.

Beyond skills, "We need people who are prayed up and ready to make a difference"

AUSTRALIA



in people's lives, he stressed. The ministry needs volunteers of all ages, as well as ethnic diversity. A large contingent of volunteers is expected to comprise what Mings calls the "God Squad," senior citizens who travel around the world and pitch in wherever they're needed.

Participation will cost about \$2,500, Mings said. That amount includes airfare, two meals per day, housing, and uniform shirts.

Because of the cost, he urged churches and other groups to consider sponsoring volunteers who can join the ministry.

For a volunteer application or more information, contact Reach-Out 2000 at P.O. Box 127, Hurst, Texas 76053-0127; phone, (817) 284-3594; or e-mail, lwfc@msn.com.



WITNESS COUNTS — Olympic track and field star Carl Lewis (left) and Sam Mings address a lay witnesses conference on the importance of the Christian witness in athletics. (BR special photo)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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ROKPR WU RBY ADQL
EWRB FAA RBWUY
BYFQR; FUL AYFU UDR
KURD RBWUY DEU
KULYQPRFULWUC.

XQDGYQMP RBQYY:

OWGY

Clue: P = S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Fifty-Five Twenty-Two.

U.S. sports teams in South Africa gain 400 new recruits for Christ

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (BP) — In a five-week volley of visiting U.S. sports teams, more than 400 people made decisions for Christ in South Africa this past summer.

The decisions demonstrated people in South Africa can be hungry for the good news of God's love — and that sports is an effective way to share that good news.

Missionaries Scott and Judith Kimsey, who serve in South Africa through the International Mission Board's International Service Corps program, hosted a soccer team, two men's basketball teams and one women's basketball team — all in a month's time. The teams led clinics at area schools and played exhibition matches with some of the better club-level teams around Cape Town.

Everywhere the teams played, they gathered the children or team members after the games and shared Christ with them.

"We're still counting the commitments made, but the number is already well over 400," Kimsey said. The number of commitments convinced the Kimseys the doors are wide open for God's work in South Africa.

"Kids got out of class to come to our clinics, and afterward sometimes the whole school would gather to hear about Jesus — teachers and all," Kimsey said. "We could pray and share about having a personal relationship with Jesus right there in the middle of the school day."

"Now, would that ever happen in the

U.S.? People are so open to Jesus' call. I get chill bumps just thinking about it!"

Amidst the excitement of recruits for Jesus, the Kimseys couldn't resist showing a little home state loyalty when the team from the University of Tennessee (UT) Baptist Student Union showed up on the court.

"Of course, the team most dear to our hearts was the Baptist Blaze from UT's Baptist Student Union," Kimsey said.

"It was a wonderful experience for us to just hang out with guys from our neck of the woods. Just to brag a little, they came through their second tour of South Africa still unbeaten!"

Kimsey played as a member of the Blaze last year when it toured South Africa in a similar project organized by Southern Baptist missionary Ron Lomax.

He and his wife, Judith, returned to South Africa this year to coordinate sports evangelism projects in the region.

The Kimseys ask Southern Baptists to pray for continuing relationships with sports people in the area, especially those involved with the professional basketball league.

"There are a few Christians on the eight semi-pro teams, and we believe God will use these and others to lead many young people to Christ," Kimsey said.

"Just like in the States, our young people are searching for role models. We want to make sure they have good ones," Kimsey pointed out.